

# PROJECT PROFILE

## GREEN INDUSTRIAL RETROFIT

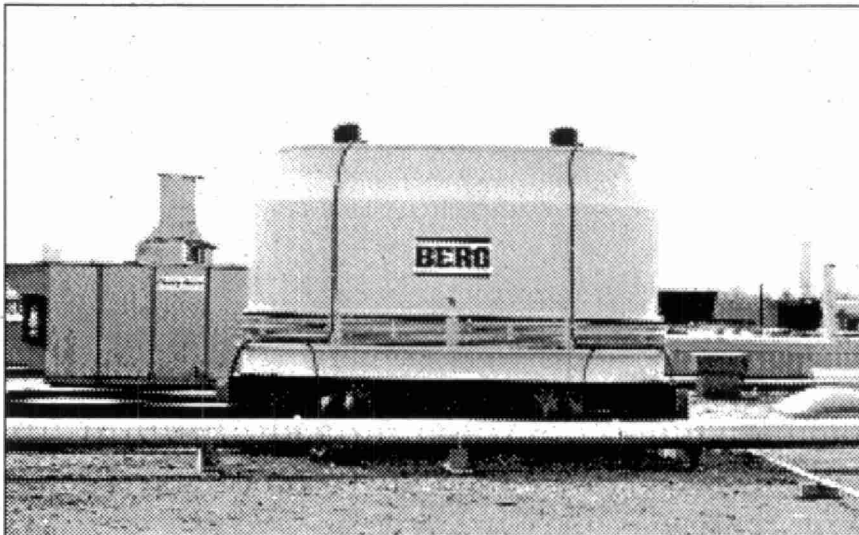


# Rieter Automotive North America Inc.

## Tillsonburg, Ontario

*"Our company cares about the environment and looks for ways to reduce the impact of its operations. Saving water in our operation was a natural step and it helped to reduce our costs as well."*

Steve Morris  
Project Engineer  
Rieter Automotive N.A. Inc.



A cooling tower on the roof of Rieter Automotive allows water to be recirculated, greatly reducing water consumption.

### THE COMPANY

Rieter Automotive N.A. Inc., is located in Tillsonburg, Ontario and is the largest Canadian manufacturer of felt-backed firewall material for automobile manufacturers. The company has expanded three times since it was founded in 1969 and now employs 350 people.

### THE CHALLENGE

Rieter Automotive encourages its employees to look for ways to reduce plant costs so that the company can stay competitive. Plant engineer Steve Morris knew that Rieter Automotive's large demand for water affected the town's ability to service the region. The plant was consuming about 20 per cent of the town's supply.

Morris felt that any reductions in water use and in discharges to the sewer would help the environment and improve the company's bottom line.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Water is used to cool the oil in Rieter Automotive's 25 hydraulic presses. The company had been discharging this water directly to the sewer. If the heat could be removed from the water using a cooling tower, the water could be recirculated to cool the hydraulic oil.

### ACTION TAKEN

Morris asked Berg Chilling Systems Inc., of Scarborough, Ontario, to design a system that would remove the heat from the water. On the company's recommendation, Rieter Automotive installed a 270 ton (950kW) cooling tower (Model 29630) on the roof of the plant. A filter was installed to remove pipe scale, as well as an automatic chemical treatment system to keep the water clean, auxiliary equipment and 3,000 metres of pipe.

### RESULTS

The new system cost more than \$200,000. It has reduced annual water consumption in the plant by more than 200,000 cubic metres, equivalent to the amount used by 800 homes, and saved the company \$10,000 a month in sewer charges.

### REPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Manufacturers who use water for cooling and then discharge it directly to the sewer would be wise to consider installing a cooling tower to reduce water consumption.

### PARTNERSHIP IN POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Industrial companies doing business in Ontario may seek ministry/industrial services that will help them to:

- \* use energy and water more efficiently;
- \* reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste;
- \* reduce or eliminate liquid effluent and gaseous emissions.

Equipment and services supply companies can benefit from the information provided on technologies identified for business development.

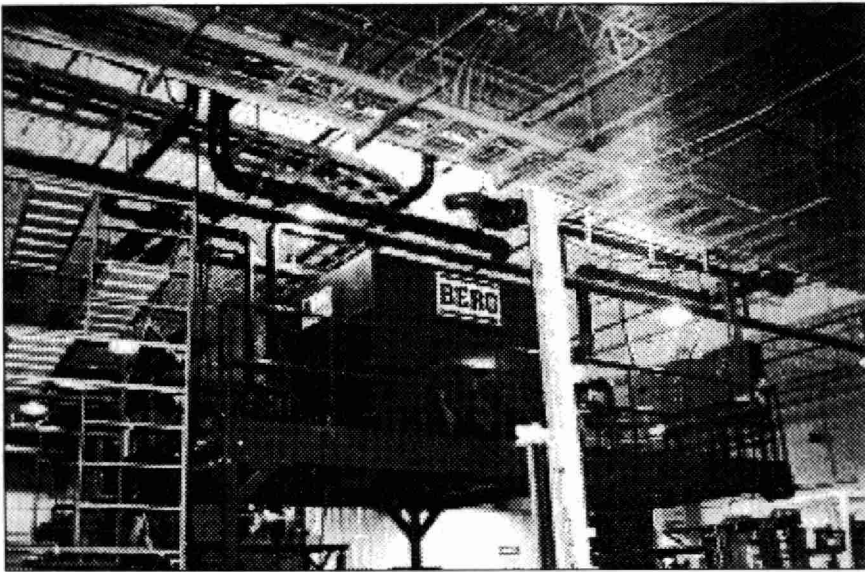


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*New mezzanine installation at Rieter Automotive N.A. Inc.*

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*This project profile was prepared and published as a public service by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy. Its purpose is to transfer information to Ontario companies about findings and recommendations of a resource conservation and environmental analysis conducted by a consulting engineering firm at an industrial plant in Ontario.*

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